

CENTRAL AMERICA REGION

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Since 2003, the CDC-Central American Regional Office partners with the Ministries of Health (MOHs) and the Council of Health Ministers of Central America to respond to the HIV epidemic in the region by strengthening strategic information and prevention strategies targeting key populations and improving the quality of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment services to people living with HIV (PLHIV). CDC supports the countries to achieve the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) fast track 90-90-90 targets - by 2020, 90% of all PLHIV will know their HIV status; by 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and by 2020, 90% of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. CDC remains committed to working closely with the MOHs, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNAIDS, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), civil society, and other key partners in expanding effective HIV testing and counseling strategies, linking newly diagnosed individuals to treatment, intensifying TB case finding among PLHIV, conducting TB infection control assessments in HIV clinics, piloting “Test and Start”, implementing differentiated service delivery models, and strengthening laboratory, health information, and surveillance systems in the region.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increase access to HIV prevention, testing, and linkage services among key populations through the HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection Sentinel Surveillance and Control Strategy (VICITS)

Better known by its Spanish acronym VICITS, this country-led strategy provides sustainable HIV prevention services to men who have sex with men, transgender women, and sex workers. The VICITS service package includes tailored counseling, enhanced sexually transmitted infections (STI) diagnosis and treatment, condom and lubricant distribution, HIV testing, peer navigation for linkages to ART and other referrals, and an HIV surveillance information system. In Fiscal Year 2017, CDC will: 1) Expand access to HIV prevention and testing services through peer promoters, social media, partner referrals of index patients, expanded service hours, and off site service provision; 2) link individuals with new HIV diagnosis to treatment via peer navigators; 3) enhance clinical and laboratory services through quality improvement plans and trainings; and 4) improve the availability and use of strategic information from VICITS, including programmatic, epidemiological and cost effectiveness results.

Expand ART access by decentralizing treatment services to VICITS clinics

CDC-Central America Region Office Staff: 10

Locally Employed Staff: 8

Direct Hires: 2

Fellows & Contractors: 0

Central America Region Includes:

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

		COUNTRIES				
		El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	Panama
Country Quick Facts	GNI Per Capita (2015)	\$3,940	\$3,590	\$2,280	\$1,940	\$11,880
	Population (2015)	6.127 Million	16.343 Million	8.075 Million	6.082 Million	3.929 Million
	Under 5 Mortality (Per 1,000 Live Births) (2015)	17	29	20	22	17
	Life Expectancy (2014)	73	72	73	75	78

Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country>

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic (2015)	Estimated HIV Prevalence (Age 15–49)	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%
	Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15)	<500	1,500	1,000	<500	<500
	Estimated Orphans due to AIDS	4,000	11,000	18,000	3,228	4,200
	Reported Number of Adults Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15)	10,530	15,459	9,884	3,350	10,065

Source: <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>

Global Tuberculosis Epidemic	Treatment Success Rate (2014)	91%	85%	89%	85%	79%
	Estimated TB Incidence (Per 100,000 Population) (2015)	43	25	43	51	50
	Estimated % Who are HIV Positive (2015)	8%	6%	10%	5%	14%

Source: <http://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en/>



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CDC will support the decentralization of ART from national reference hospitals to VICITS clinics. Based on results of the ART readiness assessment, CDC will support the decentralization of a selected ART provision model, develop or strengthen site systems for integration with national health information and drug management systems, build necessary on-site human resource and laboratory capacity, and monitor progress in program implementation and treatment outcomes in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

Strengthen TB/HIV coinfection management

CDC will continue to partner with National TB and HIV programs to support: 1) Preventive TB therapy among PLHIV; 2) TB infection control trainings and risk assessments in HIV clinics; and 3) linkages to care and treatment across TB and HIV clinics. CDC will continue to support HIV testing and counseling among TB patients, test presumptive TB patients, strengthen laboratory capacity, and support proficiency tests to ensure quality of TB diagnosis throughout the region.

Strengthen sustainable viral load network

CDC will conduct a rapid assessment that will include: specimen referral, equipment, information management systems, quality management systems, monitoring and evaluation, technology evaluation, and policy and strategic planning and coverage. CDC will also work closely with the National Reference Laboratory to develop/strengthen an algorithm for monitoring viral load based on current guidelines. Results from the assessment will be used to develop/strengthen a sustainable viral load network to improve patient outcomes, treatment adherence, and viral load suppression.

